Promotion of tourism in Goa

2000. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will me Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

whether Government has any proposal to increase the flow of tourist to India from China;

whether Government has any plan to identify hotels with moderate room tariffs for such tourist and recovered them;

whether it is fact that at present there is no flow of Chinese tourists to the internationally known tourist destination, Goa; and

if so, whether Government proposes to take concrete steps to promote tourism in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. To increase the flow of foreign tourists to India from China, the Government has approved the opening of India Tourism Office in Beijing.

Providing of accommodation to tourists is primarily a private sector activity. However, to facilitate augmentation of budget category accommodation for tourists, the Government has asked all the State/UT Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allocate land for building hotels, especially in the budget category. They have also been advised to follow investor-friendly land policies, adopt single window approach for promoting hotel projects, allot sites on revenue sharing basis, grant extra FAR/FSI for hotels, permit extra commercial usage in the hotels etc. so that budget hotels are promoted. Further, in order to increase the number of rooms in the budget category, Ministry of Tourism has floated schemes for the approval of Guest Houses and Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishments.

The number of Chinese tourist arrivals to Goa at present is negligible.

Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. However, the Government plays the role of a facilitator and catalyst to promote tourism in different parts of the country, including Goa. The activities undertaken by the Government include providing financial assistance to State/UT Governments for tourism-related projects, co-ordination with various Central Ministries, undertaking centralized media campaigns, participation in fairs and exhibitions, printing and distributing brochures, etc.

Visit of pilgrims to Hemkund Sahib in Uttarakhand

2001. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

how many pilgrims (Tourists) go to Hemkund Saheb in Uttarakhand during the last three years, year-wise;

how many foreigners have gone to this place during the last three years;

what facilities have been provided by her Ministry on this destination alongwith scheme with expenditure and the date of its completion;

what are the future plans of Government on this destination; and